

1. (Currently Amended) A gear arrangement operably arranged with a rotatable shaft, comprising a first gear made of a first material and a second gear made of a second material different than the first material, wherein the first and second gears are disposed co-axially adjacent one another on the shaft, wherein the elasticity of the first gear is greater than that of the second gear, wherein the strength of the second gear is greater than that of the first gear, and wherein the first gear and the second gear are arranged on the shaft axially detached from each other such that the first and second gears rotate in the same direction relative to the shaft and independently of each other.

2. (Withdrawn) The gear arrangement of claim 1, comprising a third gear made of the same material as the first gear and that sits loosely on the common shaft, on the side of the first gear that is still free.

3. (Withdrawn) The gear arrangement of claim 1, wherein the first and third gears are made of plastic while the second gear having less elasticity but greater strength is made of metal.

4. (Withdrawn) The gear arrangement of claim 2, wherein the first and third gears are metallic while the second gear is made of plastic, and the first and third gears having greater strength and having the same modulus exhibit a slightly smaller tothing than the second gear having greater elasticity.

5. (Withdrawn) The gear arrangement of claim 4, wherein teeth of the first, second and third gears are co-axially arranged next to one another.

6. (Withdrawn)        The gear arrangement of claim 4, wherein the first, second and third gears arranged next to one another are slightly offset relative to one another.

7. (Withdrawn)        The gear arrangement of claim 2, wherein the first, second and third gears each comprise a plurality of helical teeth with respect to the common shaft.

8. (Withdrawn)        The gear arrangement of claim 7, wherein the first gear and the second gear sit on the common shaft in such a way that the first and second gears are able to turn relative to one another about their respective axes.

9. (Withdrawn)        The gear arrangement of claim 8, wherein the first gear and the second gear are not directly connected to one another along their axial surfaces.

10. (Withdrawn)       The gear arrangement of claim 9, wherein the first gear and the second gear are asymmetrically alignable relative to one another with respect to their toothing.

11. (Currently Amended)    A transmission gear assembly operably arranged with a rotatable shaft, that engages a cooperating gear, the transmission gear assembly comprising:

        a first gear having a plurality of first gear teeth located along the radial periphery of the first gear; and

        a second gear having a plurality of second gear teeth located along the radial periphery of the second gear;

wherein the first and second gears are operably positioned co-axially on the shaft and axially detached from each other to allow independent rotation of the first and second gears in the same direction with respect to each other, wherein the first gear is constructed from a first material and the second gear is constructed from a second material different than the first material, and wherein the first gear has a greater elasticity than that of the second gear, wherein the first gear is engaged with the cooperating gear and the second gear is disengaged from the cooperating gear when an amount of load applied to the first gear does not exceed an amount that overloads the first gear.

12. (Currently Amended) The transmission gear assembly of claim 11, wherein the first gear teeth and the second gear teeth are helically arranged adjacent to one another.

13. (Currently Amended) The transmission gear assembly of claim 11, wherein the first gear teeth and the second gear teeth are helically arranged offset to one another.

14. (Currently Amended) The transmission gear assembly of claim 11, wherein the first material comprises plastic and the second material comprises metal.

15. (Withdrawn) The transmission gear assembly of claim 12, comprising:

a third gear positioned co-axially with respect to said first and second gears to allow independent rotation of said first, second and third gears in the same direction with respect to each other, said third gear being constructed of a material having the same elasticity of said first gear such that

16. (Withdrawn) The transmission gear assembly of claim 15, wherein said first and third gears are primarily plastic and said second gear is primarily metallic.

17. (Withdrawn) The transmission gear assembly of claim 11, comprising:

a third gear positioned on the axis to allow independent rotation of said first, second and third gears in the same direction with respect to each other around the axis, said third gear being constructed of a material having the same elasticity of said second gear.

18. (Currently Amended) A transmission gear assembly operably arranged with a rotatable shaft that engages a cooperating gear, the transmission gear assembly comprising:

a first gear having a plurality of first gear teeth located along the radial periphery of the first gear; and

a second gear having a plurality of second gear teeth located along the radial periphery of the second gear;

wherein the first and second gears are operably positioned co-axially on the shaft and axially detached from each other to allow independent rotation of the first and second gears in the same direction with respect to each other, wherein the first gear is constructed from a first material and the second gear is constructed from a second material different than the first material, wherein the first gear has a greater elasticity than that of the second gear, wherein the first gear engages the cooperating gear and the second gear is not engaged with the cooperating gear when an amount of load applied to the first gear does not overload the first gear, and wherein both the first and second gears engage the cooperating gear when an amount of load applied to the first gear overloads the first gear.

19. (Currently Amended) The transmission gear assembly of claim 18, wherein the first gear is plastic and the second gear is metallic.

20. (Withdrawn) The transmission gear assembly of claim 18, comprising:

a third gear positioned on the axis to allow independent rotation of said first, second and third gears in the same direction with respect to each other around the axis, said third gear being constructed of a material having the same elasticity of said second gear, wherein absence of high torque said second gear is not engaged with the cooperating gear and during high torque said first and second gears yield to disengage from the cooperating gear and said second gear engages the cooperating gear.